

Counter Rally

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MANCHESTER, N.H.—With thousands of antinuclear-power protesters chanting "No nukes" 30 miles away at the proposed \$2.3 billion Seabrook nuclear power plant, hundreds here shouted "Seabrook now" in a counter rally supporting nuclear power.

The rally—billed as a "clambake" in opposition to the three-day demonstration in Seabrook this weekend staged by the Clamshell Alliance, a coalition of New England antinuclear groups—was underlined by a call for voter support of pronuclear-power political candidates.

Many in the crowd of labor, business and consumer groups from around New England here—estimated at fewer than 1,000 by organizers and police—carried placards attacking the Clamshell group and touting the benefits of nuclear power to the job market and the economy while they listened to speeches and feasted on steamed clams and beer.

"We do stand for energy in the future," said Marc Goldsmith of the Massachusetts Voice of Energy, a consumer group sponsoring the rally here at John F. Kennedy Coliseum, the site of a similar demonstration by about 3,000 advocates of nuclear power last year. "We do stand for jobs; we do stand for Seabrook."

"We need to shout 'Seabrook now,'" he urged, and the crowd responded with the slogan.

The partially completed twin-reactor Seabrook plant—unveiled at a projected cost of \$793 million a decade ago by the Public Service Co., a private utility, is scheduled to supply energy to New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Maine. Construction has been stalled by vehement protests by environmental groups that claim it is potentially hazardous to people and sea life. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission scheduled to hold further hearings here today.

Washington's business acumen is "very high," said Avi Nelson, a Massachusetts senatorial candidate who is challenging incumbent Edward Brooke for the Republican nomination.

"I wouldn't turn over to them the management of a corner candy store," one of the nuclear power industry said, continuing his attack. "If you turn over to Washington control of the Sahara desert, in a few years you will see a shortage of sand."

One of our problem stems from the fact that we have people in Congress and in our own legislature who want to go forward with construction of the nuclear plant," said Aldrim Thomson, a staunch advocate of nuclear power, who is running for fourth term. "Those people have been removed from Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP81-100980R000600090001-78

Don't ask House Speaker Tip O'Neill about the sacks of mail full of "Koreagate" cartoons sitting in the corner of the Longworth House Office Building post office. He doesn't want to know about the clip-out "Doonesbury" strip that calls for more House hearings about members—including O'Neill—who took cash and/or favors from Korean paymaster Tongsun Park.

It seems the speaker's office ordered that the deluge of mail—2,500 postcards and letters by midweek—an estimated 4,000 by the weekend—go no further. O'Neill is so sensitive about the \$6,000 worth of birthday parties Park gave for him that an aide reportedly tried to get the offending Garry Trudeau cartoon killed.

Attorney General Griffin B. Bell was more than a trifle sensitive himself last week to a Wall Street Journal report that he socialized with officers from a steel company that came to him looking for approval for a merger.

The firm got the merger, Bell says there was no socializing and is mulling over a nasty letter to the Journal. "Tell them I flipped a coin to decide that case," he said. "Heads for merger."

No fewer than six people have come to top jobs at the Department of Energy from the Central Intelligence Agency but maybe now the trend will be reversed. Fred Hitz, who has been congressional liaison for DOE on Capitol Hill, is about to take a similar job at the CIA, where it pays more and carries a higher title. One reason Hitz is leaving DOE for the CIA is that Congress is in the process of writing new charter legislation for the intelligence community and Hitz wants to be in on it. Though Hitz came to DOE from the Pentagon with Energy Secretary James Schlesinger Jr., he worked for the CIA during the '60s.

For Bill Haselton, president of the St. Regis Paper Co., it was a big moment—speaking on behalf of the entire forest industry before a House subcommittee.

It all went fine as he laid out the industry's case for weakening the Endangered Species Act. Then

he got to that line on page five of his statement and—kapowie!—the hearing room audience cracked up with laughter.

"The term species has a biological meaning and, hence, should be defined... as a group of physically similar organisms capable of interbreeding..." he said. Haselton smiled a bit, then corrected himself. What he meant to say, of course, was "physically similar organisms."

George Bush, former director of the CIA, said in Virginia Beach Saturday he will assess his "winability" and make an early decision whether to seek the 1980 Republican presidential nomination.

He made the statement at a news conference before addressing the Virginia State Bar at a banquet that ended a three-day meeting there. Bush, a wealthy Texas businessman who has held no public office since January 1977, has said recently that he would like President Carter's job.

Someone who is an outsider like me would have to move early" in deciding whether to seek the GOP presidential nomination, Bush said Saturday. He did not pinpoint when the decision would come.

"I'm no great front-runner," he said, adding that he is traveling around the country helping Republican office-seekers. "It's a low-profile effort now."

Freshman Rep. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) had a bit of trouble Friday figuring out that she had won a game of legislative hardball.

She fought to keep opponents from eliminating a provision in an Amtrak subsidy bill that would require the rail service to buy American products when making purchases of more than \$100,000.

When the House headcount announced a 29-to-28 informal vote against an amendment deleting the provision, Mikulski jumped to her feet to demand a formal roll call.

Usually, it's the loser that asks for a roll call. "Wait a minute. Did I win?" shouted Mikulski as she sat down in her chair. Then, she rose to explain to the House: "The gentlelady apologizes. She had too many crab cakes last night."

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